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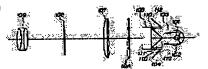
(72)Inventor: OKAMOTO NORIHISA

(54) LIQUID CRYSTAL PROJECTOR

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To provide a high-brightness and uniform (non-irregularity) liquid crystal projector by an optical system including an optical integrator and a polarization converter.

CONSTITUTION: An optical path length correction plate 105 consisting of a transparent material having comparatively large refractive index is arranged at the central exiting part of a polarizing device 104; and 1st and 2nd integrator lenses 106 and 107, a liquid crystal light valve 108 and a projection lens 109 are arranged behind the correction plate 105. Since the respective polarized light components have equal optical path length by the interference of the correction plate 105, the liquid crystal projector having the optical integrator concurrently with the polarization converter is realized.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The liquid crystal projector characterized by having the illumination system which includes the polarization modulation machine which consists of a polarizing prism, the optical-path-length corrector plate arranged to the central outgoing radiation side of this polarization modulation machine, and this polarization modulation machine and the integrator lens of the pair arranged in the direction of beam outgoing radiation of this optical-path-length corrector plate in the liquid crystal projector constituted by the illumination system and liquid crystal image modulation system which have the light source, and projection optical system.

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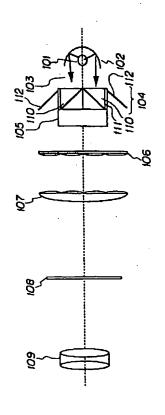
(51) Int.Cl. ⁶	識別記号	庁内整理番号	F I 技術表示箇所
G02F 1/1335	5 3 0		
G 0 2 B 5/04	.D	9224-2K	
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(21)出願番号 特願平5-266146			(71)出願人 391000966 株式会社高度映像技術研究所
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(54) 【発明の名称】 液晶プロジェクター

(57)【要約】

【目的】 オプティカルインテグレータと偏光変換器を含む光学系により高輝度で均一(むらのない)液晶プロジェクターを提供すること。

【構成】 この液晶プロジェクターは、偏光器104の中央の出射部に屈折率の比較的大きい透明材料からなる光路長補正板105を配置し、その後方に第1,第2のインテグレータレンズ106,107、液晶ライトバルブ108および投写レンズ109を配置している。光路長補正板105の介入により、各偏光成分が等光路長を持つので、オプティカルインテグレータと偏光変換器とを合わせ持つ液晶プロジェクターが実現できる。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 光源を有する照明系と液晶画像変調系と 投写光学系とにより構成される液晶プロジェクターにお いて、

偏光プリズムからなる偏光変調器と、

該偏光変調器の中央出射側に配置した光路長補正板と、 該偏光変調器と該光路長補正板のビーム出射方向に配置 した一対のインテグレータレンズとを包含する照明系を 有すことを特徴とする液晶プロジェクター。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明はワイドな画面と高い臨場 感が実現可能な液晶プロジェクターに関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来、液晶プロジェクターはCRTディスプレイに比べて小型軽量化が可能であり、単投射レンズ方式のために設置調整も非常に容易なことから、特にハイビジョン等の高い臨場感を期待される分野に向け鋭意開発が進められてきた。中でも従来の液晶プロジェクターではTNモード(ツイステッドネマティックモード)と呼ばれる特定の偏光のみを利用する方式を用いていたので、光利用効率が低い他に、光源ランプの発光分布のために表示画像に明るさむらや色むらが目立ち、そのためそれらの欠点を改善する1手段として例えばUSP(米国特許)-5,098,184号に記載のオプティカルインテグレータと呼ばれる複合式多眼レンズが知られている。

【0003】一方、光源からの自然光を液晶プロジェクターに必要な偏光に変換する概念は古くからあるが、最 30近実用化が図れているものとして、Proc. of Eurodisplay'93 pp257に記載の偏光プリズムによる偏光変換器が知られている。

[0004]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、従来の液晶プロジェクターにおいては、さらに表示性能と明るさを改善するために、上記のオプティカルインデクレータと上記の偏光変換器を同時に使用することができないので、その改良が望まれていた。

【0005】すなわち、偏光変換とオプティカルインデ 40 グレータとを液晶プロジェクターの照明光学系の中の要素に用いる場合には、オプティカルインテグレータは結像系を構成するため、光源と液晶素子との光路長が偏光の各成分およびオプティカルインテグレータに照射される場所において同一である必要がある。ところが、図3に示すように従来の偏光変換器では、光源300からの自然光301が偏光ビームスプリッター302によりP波は透過し、S波は光路を平行にずらされてかつ半波長板303により位相差を受けてP波に変換され、全体として偏光面の揃った出射光304となる。しかし、偏光 50

ビームスプリッタ302を直接透過したP波成分と半波 長板303で変換を受けたP波成分は光路長が異なり、 このような偏光変換器の後方にオプティカルインテグレ ータを導入しても、各成分で結像関係が異なるためにオ プティカルインテグレータの使用は不可能であった。

【0006】そこで、本発明の目的は、上述の点で鑑みて、表示画面が均一でかつ光源からの照明効率が高い、オプティカルインテグレータと偏光変換器とを備えた液晶プロジェクターを提供することにある。

0 [0007]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記目的を達成するため、本発明は、光源を有する照明系と液晶画像変調系と投写光学系とにより構成される液晶プロジェクターにおいて、偏光プリズムからなる偏光変調器と、該偏光変調器の中央出射側に配置した光路長補正板と、該偏光変調器と該光路長補正板のビーム出射方向に配置した一対のインテグレータレンズとを包含する照明系を有すことを特徴とする。

[0008]

【作用】本発明では、光源と液晶画像変調系と投写光学系から構成される液晶プロジェクターにおいて、光路長補正機能を有する光路長補正板を入れた偏光変換器および一対のインテグレータレンズから照明系を構成しているので、偏光変換器とインテグレータレンズの両機能が相乗的に発揮されて、高輝度で均一な表示画面が得られる。

[0009]

【実施例】以下、図面を参照して本発明の実施例を詳細 に説明する。

【0010】図1は本発明の一実施例の液晶プロジェクターの光学系の配置構成を示す。ランプ101からの照明光は反射鏡102により反射され、その反射光(出射光)103は図3の従来例と同様の構成の偏光変換器104に入射される。一対の偏光ビームスプリッタ(PBS)110により出射光103のP波は透過し、そのS波は光路を平行にずらされて、一対の半波長板111および反射ミラー112により位相差を受けてP波に変換され出射される。偏光ビームスプリッタ110を透過したP波は、偏光変換器104の出射側中央部に配置した光路長補正板105により光路長の補正を受けて、上記半波長板により位相差を受けたP波と光路長が等しくなる。光路長補正板105はPBS110のプリズム材よりも屈折率の大きな屈折率と適切な厚みを有する光学ガラスからなる。

【0011】偏光変換器104を出射したこれらP波の 光束は第1のインテグレータレンズ(INT)106、 第2のインテグレータレンズ(INT)107および液 晶ライトバルブ(LV)108を通って投写レンズ10 9に導かれる。

【0012】第1のINT106は偏光変換器104の

直後に置かれ、第2のINT107の位置に光源からの 複数の像を形成する。その結果LV108上には16: 9の横長のアスペクト比を持ち、偏光面が揃った均一な 照射が可能となり、投写レンズ109によりLV108 上の画像が偏光スクリーン(図示せず)上に拡大投影さ れる。

【0013】実験例では光源101に250Wメタルハ ライドランプおよび反射鏡102にF数17の放物面鏡 を用い、またPBS110にはBK-7ベースのものを 用いた。第1のINT106には図2に示すようにアス ペクト比が16:9のBK-7製の平凸小レンズ201 を配列したものを用いた。また第2のINT107は上 記第1のレンズ106に一枚の大きな平凸レンズを組み 合わせたものを用いた。光路長補正板105は肉厚にな ると出射光の蹴られが生じるため、屈折率の高いLaF 系ガラスを用いた。光源からの出射光103はUVカッ トを十分行った。LV108にはアスペクト比16:9 のTFT (薄膜トランジスタ) パネルを用いた。これら の構成要素を用いた液晶プロジェクターを評価した結 果、色むら、輝度むら共に極めて少なく(60%以 上)、高輝度な映像が得られ、本発明の効果が確認され た。

【0014】上記実施例では光源、LV、偏光変換器、INT等の一実施例を示したにすぎず、その各要素の仕様を変更したものも全て本発明の効果の実現が可能である。またその適用範囲はフロント、リア等の投写方式にも関わりなく、液晶プロジェクター全体に効果を示すことも自明である。

[0015]

【発明の効果】以上説明したように、本発明によれば、 光源と液晶画像変調系と投写光学系から構成される液晶 プロジェクターにおいて、偏光変換器と一対のインテグレータレンズ間に光路長補正板を配置したので、偏光変換器とインテグレータレンズの両者の機能が相乗的に発揮され、高輝度で色むら、輝度むら共にきわめて少ない均一な表示画面(映像)が得られる。

【0016】また、本発明によれば、家庭用シアターや プリゼンテーション用ディスプレイとしての高輝度化と 画質の向上を可能とするもので、これら映像機器の今後 の一層の普及に対し本発明の果たす役割は大であると期 待できる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の一実施例の液晶プロジェクターの光学系の構成を示す模式図である。

【図2】図1のインテグレータレンズの具体例を示す平 面図である。

【図3】従来例の偏光変換器の構成を示す模式図である。

【符号の説明】

101 ランプ

102 反射鏡

103 出射光

104 偏光変換器

105 光路長補正板

106 第1のインテグレータレンズ

107 第2のインテグレータレンズ

108 液晶ライトバルブ

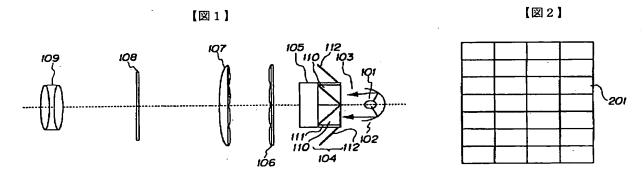
109 投写レンズ

110 偏光ビームスプリッタ

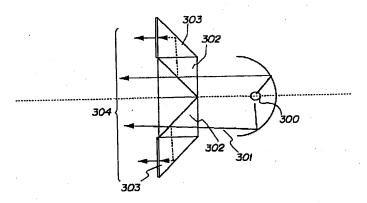
111 半波長板

112 反射鏡

201 平凸小レンズ



【図3】



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the liquid crystal projector which can realize a wide screen and high presence.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Conventionally, since the formation of small lightweight is possible for a liquid crystal projector compared with a CRT display and installation adjustment is also very easy because of a single projector lens method, development has been wholeheartedly furthered towards the field from which presence with especially expensive Hi–Vision etc. is expected. In order efficiency for light utilization is low since the method only using the specific polarization called TN mode (twisted nematic type) with the conventional liquid crystal projector especially was used, and also brightness unevenness and an irregular color are conspicuous in a display image for the illuminant cloth of a light source lamp, therefore to improve those faults, amelioration development has been furthered wholeheartedly. The compound expression multi-eye lens called the optical integrator of a publication to USP(United States patent)–5,098,184 No. as one means to improve those faults is known.

[0003] On the other hand, the concept which changes the natural light from the light source into polarization required for a liquid crystal projector is Proc.of as what can be attaining utilization recently although it is for many years. Eurodisplay'93 The polarization converter by the polarizing prism given in pp257 is known.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, in the conventional liquid crystal projector, since the above-mentioned optical indie crater and the above-mentioned polarization converter could not be used for coincidence in order to improve the display engine performance and brightness further, the amelioration was desired.

[0005] That is, to use polarization conversion and optical indie GURETA for the element in the illumination-light study system of a liquid crystal projector, since an optical integrator constitutes an image formation system, the optical path length of the light source and a liquid crystal device needs to be the same [an integrator] in the location irradiated by each component and optical integrator of polarization. However, as shown in drawing 3, in the conventional polarization transducer, the natural light 301 from the light source 300 penetrates a P wave by the polarization beam splitter 302, and an S wave is shifted in parallel in an optical path, and it is changed into a P wave by the half-wave plate 303 in response to phase contrast, and it becomes the outgoing radiation light 304 to which plane of polarization was equal as a whole. However, even if the optical path lengths differed and the P wave component which penetrated the polarization beam splitter 302 directly, and the P wave component which received conversion with the half-wave plate 303 introduced the optical integrator behind such a polarization transducer, since image formation relation differed of each component, use of an optical integrator was impossible.

[0006] Then, the purpose of this invention takes an example in respect of a ****, and a display screen

is to offer the liquid crystal projector equipped with the uniform optical integrator and polarization transducer with high lighting effectiveness from the light source.

[0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, this invention is characterized by to have the illumination system which includes the polarization-modulation machine which consists of a polarizing prism, the optical-path-length corrector plate arranged to the central outgoing-radiation side of this polarization-modulation machine, and this polarization-modulation machine and the integrator lens of the pair arranged in the direction of beam outgoing radiation of this optical-path-length corrector plate in the liquid crystal projector constituted by the illumination system and the liquid-crystal image modulation system which have the light source, and projection optical system.

[8000]

[Function] In this invention, in the liquid crystal projector which consists of the light source, a liquid crystal image modulation system, and projection optical system, since the illumination system is constituted from an integrator lens of the polarization converter and pair which put in the optical-pathlength corrector plate which has an optical-path-length amendment function, both the functions of a polarization converter and an integrator lens are demonstrated in multiplication, and the uniform display screen is obtained by high brightness.

[Example] Hereafter, the example of this invention is explained to a detail with reference to a drawing. [0010] Drawing 1 shows the arrangement configuration of the optical system of the liquid crystal projector of one example of this invention. The illumination light from a lamp 101 is reflected by the reflecting mirror 102, and incidence of the reflected light (Hikaru Idei) 103 is carried out to the polarization converter 104 of the same configuration as the conventional example of $\frac{drawing 3}{drawing 3}$. The P wave of the outgoing radiation light 103 penetrates by the polarization beam splitter (PBS) 110 of a pair, an optical path is shifted in parallel, the S wave is changed into a P wave in response to phase contrast by the half-wave plate 111 and the reflective mirror 112 of a pair, and outgoing radiation is carried out. The P wave and the optical path length who received phase contrast with the above-mentioned halfwave plate in response to the optical path length's amendment by the optical-path-length corrector plate 105 which has arranged the P wave which penetrated the polarization beam splitter 110 in the outgoing radiation side center section of the polarization converter 104 become equal. The optical-pathlength corrector plate 105 consists of optical glass which has a refractive index with a bigger refractive index than the prism material of PBS110, and suitable thickness.

[0011] The flux of light of these P waves that carried out outgoing radiation of the polarization converter 104 is led to the projection lens 109 through the 1st integrator lens (INT) 106, the 2nd integrator lens (INT) 107, and the liquid crystal light valve (LV) 108.

[0012] 1st INT106 is placed immediately after the polarization converter 104, and forms two or more images from the light source in the location of 2nd INT107. As a result on LV108, it has the oblong aspect ratio of 16:9, the uniform exposure to which plane of polarization was equal is attained, and expansion projection of the image on LV108 is carried out on a polarization screen (not shown) with the projection lens 109.

[0013] In the example of an experiment, the parabolic mirror of the F number 17 was used for the light source 101 at 250W metal halide lamp and the reflecting mirror 102, and the thing of the BK-7 base was used for PBS110. As shown in drawing 2, the aspect ratio used for 1st INT106 what arranged the planoconvex smallness lens 201 made from BK-7 of 16:9. Moreover, 2nd INT107 used what combined one big plano-convex lens with the 1st lens 106 of the above. Since ***** of outgoing radiation light would arise if it becomes thick, the optical-path-length corrector plate 105 used LaF system glass with a high refractive index. The outgoing radiation light 103 from the light source performed UV cut enough. The TFT (thin film transistor) panel of an aspect ratio 16:9 was used for LV108, the result of having

evaluated the liquid crystal projector using these components — an irregular color and brightness unevenness — very — few (60% or more) — high — the brightness image was acquired and the effectiveness of this invention was checked.

[0014] Implementation of the effectiveness of this invention is possible also for all the things that did not pass for the above-mentioned example to have shown one examples, such as the light source, LV, a polarization converter, and INT, but changed the specification of each of that element. Moreover, are concerned, the applicability is not in a front and the projection method of rear **, either, and it is also obvious that effectiveness is shown in the whole liquid crystal projector.

[Effect of the Invention] Since the optical-path-length corrector plate has been arranged between the integrator lenses of a polarization converter and a pair in the liquid crystal projector which consists of the light source, a liquid crystal image modulation system, and projection optical system according to this invention as explained above, the function of both polarization converter and integrator lens is demonstrated in multiplication, and the uniform display screen (image) with very little an irregular color and brightness unevenness is obtained by high brightness.

[0016] Moreover, according to this invention, improvement in a home theater, or a raise in brightness as a display for PURIZENTESHON and image quality is enabled, and it can be expected that the role which this invention plays to much more spread of the futures of these visual equipments is size.

[Translation done.]

[0015]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the mimetic diagram showing the configuration of the optical system of the liquid crystal projector of one example of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the top view showing the example of the integrator lens of drawing 1.

[Drawing 3] It is the mimetic diagram showing the configuration of the polarization converter of the conventional example.

[Description of Notations]

101 Lamp

102 Reflecting Mirror

103 Hikaru Idei

104 Polarization Converter

105 Optical-Path-Length Corrector Plate

106 1st Integrator Lens

107 2nd Integrator Lens

108 Liquid Crystal Light Valve

109 Projection Lens

110 Polarization Beam Splitter

111 Half-wave Plate

112 Reflecting Mirror

201 Planoconvex Smallness Lens

[Translation done.]